GUIDE TO THE AW17 TELUGU FILE

[The AW17 Telugu file principally contains information on a Telugu-speaking village in the northwestern section of the state of Andhra Pradesh. Although the file ideally concerns specific information on Telugu speakers and more general information on their state, Andhra Pradesh, at the present time, it is composed for the most part, of a single village study. Andhra Pradesh is located on India's southeast coast, from approximately 12° - 20° North latitude and 76° - 84° East longitude. It is bounded on the north by the states of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh, on the northwest by Maharashtra, on the west by Karnataka (formerly Mysore), and on the south by Tamil-Nadu (formerly Madras). It is the northernmost and largest of the four Dravidian language states.

Andhra Pradesh has a population of 43.5 million (1971 census), most of whom are Telugu speakers. Its capital is Hyderabad, the fifth largest city in India (nearly 1.3 million/ 1967 U.N. Demographic Yearbook/). Its population density (391 persons per square mile /1969/) and the urban percentage of its population (18% /1961/) are both below the national average. It also has a high employment rate for India (over 50%) and is economically stable because its coastal areas produce a large rice surplus (Maloney, 1974, p. 340).

Telugu is the most widely-spoken of the Dravidian languages, the number of its speakers being only slightly less than the population of Andhra Pradesh. It is also spoken in neighboring areas of Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil-Nadu. Its relation to other Dravidian languages is not clear, although scholars agree that it is an early offshoot.

Dialect studies have been made, but have not yet been translated from Telugu (Voegelin and Voegelin, 1966, p. 41). Urdu (Inod-European), the literary and cultured language of the Indian Muslims, is also spoken by a small percentage of the population, especially in the area of Hyderabad.

Andhra Pradesh was formed in 1953 as the first of the linguistic states that the government had promised to set up after independence. It was composed of part of the Madras Presidency and the Telugu-speaking section of the former Hyderabad Muslim princely state.

Most (94%) of Andhra Pradesh's population live in large compact villages of over 100 houses and 500 people. Blocks of castes generally occupy different sections of the village, but within these sections, there is no caste segregation. Only Untouchables live in extra-village hamlets or in a particular section of the village. The size and compactness of the villages allow a wide range of caste interaction. In the fertile rice growing areas, villages tend to be on higher ground. Irrigation is common in most of the state, except in the dry western plateau where only millet is grown. The household is the basic unit of Telugu society. Joint households, such as two brothers and their families, common in northern India, are rare (Maloney, 1974, pp. 313-316). (Data based on information from Area Handbook for India, 1970; 1975 Information Please Almanac; Maloney, Clarence, 1974, Peoples of South Asia; Voegelin and Voegelin, 1966, Languages of the World: Dravidian, Anthropological Linguistics, vol 8, pp. 40-41.)

There is only one source in the Telugu file, although small amounts of material from the AW1 India file are present.

1: Dube is a village study by an Indian anthropologist, which concerns the village of Shamirpet. It has a population of 2,500 (1951) and is twenty-five miles from Hyderabad in the dry Deccan Plateau of western Andhra Pradesh. It is a detailed study and was carried out by a team of researchers. It discusses the political, religious and social structure of the village, plus providing material on its history, geography, economy, and case histories which personalize the dryer aspects of the generalizations. More than eighteen researchers gathered the data and hence Dube was able to draw upon the expertise of professionals in areas such as agriculture, health, and nutrition.

While this file is essentially composed of one source, it is large enough and sufficiently detailed to cover a wide range of topics. It should serve as a good comparison with other Indian village studies, as well as an adequate introduction to the region and the language group. The file was processed in 1955.]